| **Indicator**<br>**RECOMMENDED** | **Deaths from Lung Cancer** |
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| **Justification** | Lung cancer results from long-term tobacco use, and is the most common form of cancer mortality in the U.S. Eighty to 90 percent of all lung cancer is attributable to cigarette smoking. In 1998, there were slightly more than 125,000 smoking-attributable lung cancer deaths. |
| **Definition** | Number of deaths from lung cancer per 1,000 population |
| **Numerator** | Resident deaths during a calendar year with ICD-9 codes of 162.2-169.9 or ICD-10 codes C34 as the underlying cause of death |
| **Denominator** | Total resident population for the same calendar year |
| **Data Sources** | Death certificate data from the National Center for Health Statistics Mortality Detail Files (numerator) and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census (denominator) |
| **Frequency** | Annual |
| **Geographic Levels** | National, State, and County |
| **Demographic Categories** | Age by Gender by Race/Ethnicity |
| **Strengths** | Readily available for many years in all states |
| **Limitations** | Death from lung cancer reflects long-term, chronic cigarette smoking, and lung cancer has a long latency period. Therefore, it may be many years before changes in smoking affect population mortality. The stability of this indicator is directly related to the size of the population in which these deaths occur. Therefore, this indicator may be unstable for less populated states and counties that have low numbers of annual deaths, especially when used for demographic subgroups. There also is variability in the procedures used within and across each state to determine cause of death. |